

Slower economy expected

40%

40% of CEOs reported the economy had improved compared to a year ago, down from 46% last quarter and 61% in the 1st quarter of 2015.

27%

27% of CEOs expect the economy to improve in the next 12 months, down from 35% in the prior quarter and 45% at the start of 2015.

15%

Just 15% of CEOs anticipated that overall economic conditions would actually worsen in the year ahead.

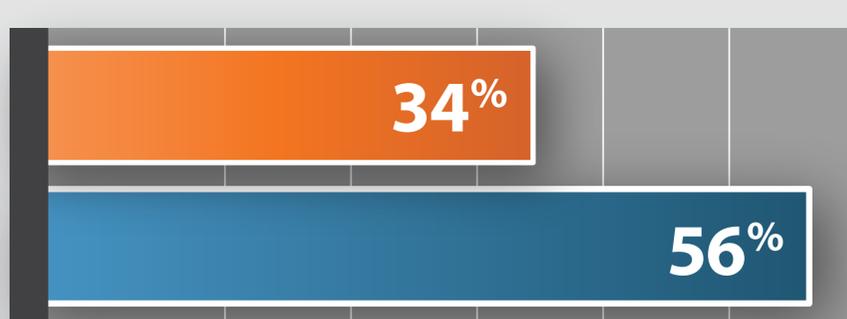
Planned workforce expansion

34% of CEOs said recruiting and retaining staff are the most significant challenges currently facing their business.

34%

56%

56% of CEOs said they plan to expand their workforce in the year ahead. Cutbacks in employees were planned by just 8% of all firms.



Strong investment plans

44%

Planned increases in investments in new plant and equipment were reported by 44% of all firms in the year ahead.

12% planned to decrease investments.

12%

Gains in revenues and profits

71%

71% of CEOs expect revenue gains in the year ahead, and 56% of CEOs expect increased profits in the year ahead.

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